



Farmers plant boro saplings at a field of Dorun village in Tangail Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

High farming cost worries Tangail boro growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Farmers in the district, who are now busy sowing boro paddy saplings in their fields, are worried over the increasing cultivation costs without any increase in prices of their produce.

Though cost of paddy cultivation increased with increasing prices of fertilisers and wages of labourers, paddy prices have not increased, farmers said.

Farmer Nizam Uddin of Charabari area in Tangail Sadar upazila said he did not get any profit from the paddy he cultivated on his four bighas of land last season due to low market prices.

"This year, I am cultivating boro paddy as I have no option. What can I do? I can't leave my land unused as I

have to feed my family," he added.

Abdus Samad of Sadullapur village said, "We farmers are really helpless as we don't know anything but farming." "I have been working as farmer for the last 40 years and I am tired as agriculture is very hard work," he added.

Abdul Kader of Elasin in Delduar upazila said they did not get fair prices for the paddy last year despite working hard along with their family members for about four months, from readying the seedbeds to drying paddy after harvesting.

Shahin Miah of Tangail town grew paddy on eight acres of land at Kamarthi and Charan villages in Kalihati upazila last season. He said he was left with almost nothing after selling the paddy and paying the

cultivation costs.

According to Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Tangail Abul Hashim, boro paddy was cultivated on 1,66,062 hectares of land in 12 upazilas of the district last year, while it was 1,70,082 hectares in 2014. The target for this season is 1,68,000 hectares.

Sowing of boro saplings starts from the first week of January and continues till the second week of February, agriculture officials said, adding that it will increase after completion of mustard harvesting from the fields.

Hashim said the local farmers can solve their problems on their own, adding that field level agriculture officials were working with them.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 20 compared with 2015, almost twice as many as the countries which recorded an improvement (38).

Fifty seven countries stagnated, with their scores remaining unchanged compared with 2015, it said.

Seventy six of the 167 countries covered by the model, or 45.5 percent of all countries, can be considered to be democracies, according to the index.

The Democracy Index is based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism; civil liberties; the functioning of government; political participation; and political culture.

Based on their scores on a range of indicators within these categories, each country is then itself classified as one of four types of regimes: "full democracy"; "flawed democracy"; "hybrid regime"; and "authoritarian regime".

The number of "full democracies" has declined from 20 in 2015 to 19 in 2016's Democracy Index.

The US, a standard-bearer of democracy for the world, has become a "flawed democracy", as popular confidence in the functioning of public institutions has declined. The score for the US fell to 7.98 from 8.05 in 2015, causing the world's leading economic superpower to slip below the 8.00 threshold for a "full democracy".

Of the remaining 91 countries in the index, 51 are "authoritarian" and 40 (up from 37 in 2015) are considered to be "hybrid regimes".

Jamaat leader arrested in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested a Jamaat-Islami leader from Islami Adarsha Bidya Niketon in Patgram upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestee is Abu Hena Md Erhsad Hossain Sazu, 48, son of Sabur Uddin of Sreerampur village in the upazila. He is coordinator of Jamaat leaders and activists of Lalmonirhat-1 constituency (Patgram and Hatibandha upazilas), police said.

Sazu contested in parliament election on Jamaat ticket for two terms in the constituency.

Sazu is accused in four sabotage cases lodged with Patgram Police Station in January, 2013, police said.

Officer-in-Charge (investigation) Mahfuz Alam said Sazu had been absconding for long, and was involved in patronising Jamaat men in two upazilas.

Assaulted schoolteacher lands in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The teacher of Khagakharbari High School, who was assaulted by a school management committee member on Wednesday, was referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital from Dimla Upazila Health Complex.

Teacher Koilash Chandra Roy was assaulted by school management committee (SMC) member Kamruzzaman Litu on the school campus in front of students and teachers. Dr Krisna Rani Roy of the health complex said she referred the patient to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as some of his teeth were badly affected, causing immense pain, and there were also injuries to the eyes and ears.

Teachers and students said the school authorities arranged a function to give farewell to SSC candidates of 2017 at the school hall. Members of the SMC were also invited to the function.

An altercation took place there between Litu and Koilash over a trivial matter. "At one stage, Litu started hitting me mercilessly in front of the students and teachers," Koilash said.

Students of Class X Riad Hossain, Noornabi, Manik and Sagor said when they saw their teacher being assaulted they caught hold of the attacker Litu and confined him to a classroom, demanding his punishment.

Being informed, police from Dimla Police Station rushed to the spot and attempted to rescue Litu in face of protest by the students, as they demanded his punishment on the spot. Some students hurled brickbats on police, injuring Litu and ASI Bikash, locals said.

However, police managed to take the accused to the

police station where the two injured received first-aid.

Officer-in-Charge of Dimla Police Station Moazzem Hossen said there was an altercation, but no assault on a teacher took place, adding that no one filed any case regarding the incident.

Bidhan Chandra Roy, brother of Koilash, said he filed a complaint with the police station on behalf of his brother on Wednesday night, but police didn't confirm whether the case had been recorded or not.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Nilphamari Abu Maruf Hossain said he had sent the ASP circle to investigate the matter. He added that if a complaint on behalf of the victim was filed then it must be recorded and action would be taken.



Blind Samiul raises family on flute songs

AMINUL ISLAM with ANDREW EAGLE

Did you ever consider how the rhythmic rattle of a train is a kind of percussion? As town-and-country landscape rushes by outside the window, to the train's steady movement and with that familiar ta-tum-tum-tum-tum repetition it can feel rather meditative. It's what makes train travel special. Oftentimes, all that's really missing is some sweet melody to accompany the base.

If the train is travelling anywhere near Jamalpur or Mymensingh and you're lucky enough, you might just catch the melody too. Samiul Haque, often known as Thandu Miah, from Kushalnagar village in Jamalpur's Bakshiganj upazila, is a fifty-year-old blind man who earns his keep by entertaining passengers with enchanting flute songs. In the whole of his life there's never been a day when he simply begged.

Last Thursday afternoon The Daily Star met him on the Mymensingh-bound Teesta Intercity service from Jamalpur. "I like to play the songs of Abdul Alim, and baul songs, especially those composed by Shah Abdul Karim," he says.

"My daughter Jannatul Ferdous is an intermediate student at a college in Bakshiganj while my son Jahangir Alam studies in class nine at a local high school. My mission in life is to support my children so they can achieve higher education. For my children I absolutely do not want a life that's as painful as mine has been."

It's the wafting notes of his mesmerising flute melodies that promise to make his dreams for his children become reality.



Samiul playing his mesmerising flute in a train.

PHOTO: STAR

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following consultancy position. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

Consultant (Public Finance Expert)- NOB level;
Last date of receiving applications: **2 February 2017**

Application should be submitted with an updated CV, a completed UN Personal History Form (P-11 Form) on or before the closing date to the Chief, Human Resources Section, via email to: hrbangladesh@unicef.org
Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all national, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation.

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment

unite for children



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No- 27.27.2666.103.02.019.2016.2223

Date: 26 January 2017

Corrigendum-01

The following corrigendum has been made to the Tender No.: 27.27.2666.103.02.019.2016.2667, Date: 14 December 2016 for Procurement of DCS (Max DNA) Spares for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Siddhirganj, Narayanganj, Bangladesh:

Sl. No.	Sl. No. of Invitation for Tenders	Items/ Descriptions	Existing	Revised As
1	17	Tender Last Selling Date	30/01/2017 up to 15:00 Hr (BST)	13/02/2017 up to 15:00 Hr (BST)
2	18	Tender Submission Date & Time	31/01/2017 up to 12:00 Hr (BST)	14/02/2017 up to 12:00 Hr (BST)
3	19	Tender Opening Date & Time	31/01/2017 on 12:30 Hrs (BST)	14/02/2017 on 12:30 Hrs (BST)
4	22 (c) [ITT 14.1 (a) of Section-2, Tender Data Sheet of the Tender Document]	Eligibility of Tenderer	The Tenderer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services.	The Tenderer/ Manufacturer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services.
5	22 (d) [ITT 14.1 (b) of Section-2, Tender Data Sheet of the Tender Document]	Eligibility of Tenderer	The satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum BDT two (02) million value under a single contract in the last three (3) years (i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of Invitation for Tenders (IFT) in the newspaper).	The Tenderer/ Manufacturer shall have experience of satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum BDT two (02) million value under a single contract in the last three (3) years (i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of Invitation for Tenders (IFT) in the newspaper).

All other Terms and Conditions of the Tender shall remain unchanged.

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IO talks

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the case, for over four hours.

Mahmuda Khanam Mitu was hacked and shot dead by unidentified criminals near the port city's GEC intersection on June 5 last year when she was taking her son to a school bus stop.

Shaheda said the IO enquired about Babul and Mitu's family life and their two children.

"My daughter was innocent. I told the official that Babul and Mitu were happily married," she added.

Mosharraf said the police should investigate whether any extramarital affair was behind the murder. "We want to know the motive for the murder. Why a woman who had no properties was killed?"

Asked whether his son-in-law was cooperating in the investigation, he said the IO should answer the question. He said they asked Babul about the identities of the killers. "We expected that he would continue with the job and identify the killers."

About Mitu's mobile phone SIM card, Shaheda said a CNG-run three-wheeler driver from the capital's Moghbazar was using it.

Mosharraf said he called the driver yesterday morning. "He received the call, but I didn't reply."

According to Shaheda, Babul now lives at Moghbazar with his children and is in regular contact with his in-laws.

IO Kamruzzaman said some IT experts were working for the recovery of the victim's mobile phone SIM card which would take time.

"We are trying to establish the motive for the murder," he told reporters at his office, adding that law enforcers recently conducted drives in Bandarban to arrest Musa and Kalu, two key suspects in the murder.

Babul had filed the murder case with Panchlaih Police Station, accusing three unnamed people. The case was later transferred to the DB.

Five people have been shown arrested in the case. They are now behind bars. Besides, two suspects in the murder case were killed in two "shootouts" between police and criminals during raids by law enforcers last year.

Police on June 24 last year interrogated Babul in the capital for about 15 hours. The home ministry in September relieved the SP of his job.

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Corrigendum Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that e-Tenders are invited and published in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sl	Tender ID	Name of work & tender reference No.	Amendment item name
1	82848	DBS Overlay and Rigid Pavement with Necessary Repair and Strengthening at 8th (p) km, 9th km to 16th km and 17th km of Ghatiadanga-Monufakirhat Road (Z-1037) under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2016-2017.	1. Tender Notice: Eligibility of Tenderer 2. TDS ITT Clause 15.1b: Specific Experience Criteria 3. TDS ITT Clause 19.1: Joint Venture Criteria 4. TDS ITT Clause 25.1: Contents of Tender e-gp/PMP Road/CZ-13/Doha/Ctg Zone/2016-2017 (additional other documents)

Bidhan Chandra Dhar
Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Chittagong Zone, Chittagong